in a memorandum to the Prime Minister sought strict measures to curb water and air pollution caused by chemical industries in the GIDC Industrial Estate;

(b) the number of villages affected so far by pollution; and what remedial steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Gujarat State Water and Air Pollution Control Board propose to take any penal action against the erring industrialists; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the State Pollution Control Board, two villages are reported to have been affected by pollution. The concerned industries have been directed to provide for necessary preventive and control measures through proper treatment and safe disposal of wastes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

U.N. General Assembly Resolution on Conference on Indian Ocean

1009. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution recently, recommending a conference on Indian Ocean to be held not later than the first half of next year; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The U.N. General Assembly on 17th December 1984 adopted a resolution which, *inter alia*, requested the Ad-hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to complete preparatory work to enable the opening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo at the earliest date in the first half of 1986 to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country.

(b) The Government of India have been working actively in the Ad-hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean during its sessions in 1985 to ensure that preparations are complete in order to enable the holding of the Conference in time.

Preaching of separation by extremists in the Western countries

1010. SHRI S. B. RAMESH BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries where extremists are preaching separatism have been urged by the Government of India to step up security measures so that planting of bombs, explosives etc., in Air India's flight could be prevented; and

(b) if so, what is the response of those countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) All our Missions abroad where Air India operates have been instructed to secure assistance from local authorities to help Air India augment the security arrangements for Air India flights. The responses have been positive.

Steps to remove economic educational backwardness of minorities

1011. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minority cell of the Home Ministry conducted any survey about the economic, social and education condition of minorities and has made its recommendations

to ameliorate the economic condition of minorities and remove their educational backwardness; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Minorities Cell was set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs in pursuance of former Prime Minister's fifteen point programme on welfare of minorities, to facilitate attending to problems relating to minorities on a continuing basis and oversee the implementation of former Prime Minister's programme for minority welfare. Minorities Cell has not conducted any survey about the socio-economic and educational conditions of minorities.

Monitoring of functioning and implementation of schemes

1012. SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether there is any system with the Planning Commission to monitor functioning and implementation of schemes at the grass root level by the various Ministries and Departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The basic responsibility for monitoring the functioning and implementation of the schemes at the grass root level lies with the respective field agencies, project authorities, State Governments and Central Ministries. Planning Commission, monitors, progress and achievements with respect to the targets indicated in the Plans on the basis of the information supplied by the Ministries, State Governments and Public Undertakings.

Abolition of sales tax on bangles

1013. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 249 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rajasthan has abolished sales tax on bangles and Haryana has reduced the sales tax on this item from 12 percent to 4 percent; and

(b) whether Government propose to abolish sales tax on bangles in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Delhi Administration.

Representation by the 'Bangles Dealers' Association

1014. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any representation from the association of bangles dealers in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Delhi Administration.

Possibility of acid rain

1015. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the possibility of acid rain in big cities like Delhi, Bombay,